

# THE OWOSSO TIMES.

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## POWERFUL YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Their Silver Anniversary Convention A Power For Good.

The 25th annual convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Michigan has come and gone, and left an impress on the delegates, the local association and the people of this city that cannot help but result in much good. The inspiration gained here will certainly show itself the coming year in renewed interest in the bible classes and men's meetings, in all associations which sent delegates here. This is bound to be so had no other speaker than Rev. R. A. Torrey, of Chicago, taken part in the convention.

The convention was especially fortunate in having as its presiding officer, C. D. Harrington, of Grand Rapids. Mr. Harrington is a business man, for seventeen years cashier of the National City Bank of that city, and by reason of his many years experience among men was well fitted to preside over the convention in a most acceptable manner. That the convention was a strong one in its influence and work we need not mention the names of the prominent speakers: Rev. R. A. Torrey, of the Moody Institute, Chicago; C. O. Michener, of New York, international college secretary; Thomas S. Cole, Canadian Provincial secretary; C. M. Copeland, of New York; Rev. A. R. Gay, of Concord; F. W. Ober, of Chicago, editor of Men; D. S. Southerland, Division Supt. of the M. C. A. Detroit, and all the prominent Y. M. C. A. workers of the state, who are well-known here.

The music of the convention was an important and attractive feature. It was in charge of Tracy McGregor, Detroit, and Rev. J. V. Jenness, of Bay City; The boys' branch glee club of Detroit, attended the convention Friday and Saturday and delighted the convention with each of its selections.

The delegates were full of praise for the excellent treatment they received at the hands of their hosts and hostesses, all leaving for their homes or schools Monday morning assuring the local association members that their short sojourn in Owosso had been a pleasant one.

THURSDAY EVENING.  
The Thursday evening session was held at the M. E. church. The convention was opened by a praise service conducted by Rev. J. V. Jenness, of Bay City.

President Stringer made a short address, followed by the address of welcome by Dr. B. S. Knapp, who welcomed the delegates to the convention to the city in behalf of the local Association and the city.

Chairman H. C. Van Tuyl responded. Appointment of committees on nominations of officers for the coming year: I. G. Jenkins, Detroit; A. K. Fox, Adrian; J. P. Knowles, Alma.

Committee on Credentials—C. S. Ensminger, with power to choose the balance of the committee.

Address, "The Opportunities of the 20th Century Young Man," by Rev. J. M. Patterson, Detroit, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian church. Mr. Patterson is an excellent speaker, and is not a stranger in Owosso. His lecture was of unusual interest, being delivered principally to young people. The greatest work in history, he said, had been accomplished by young men. Christ did his best work in early manhood. Thousands had sacrificed their lives for political liberty and freedom in religion. In the first years of the 19th century man in general was but the tool of his master. Today he is a factor in the government by the people. After a summary of the achievements of the century, Mr. Patterson said he believed the world was growing better. Churches were wont to be revered because of their divine origin; now only so far as they are the means of the spiritual uplifting given to manhood. The opportunities for the young men of the coming century for helping along Christ's kingdom would be greater than ever before, and young man's true success would depend upon his energies towards the upbuilding of Christian character. Unless the great mass of men accepted God in their hearts there was but little hope for the permanency of the institutions of our country.

FRIDAY.

At 9 o'clock the session opened in the Baptist church lecture room, where a half hour was devoted to singing and prayer. It was a very helpful meeting for the delegates who attended. The attendance was small as the delegates had not yet all arrived. Rev. J. V. Jenness, of Bay City, had charge of the exercises, and lent all his enthusiasm in the singing. At 9:30 the meeting adjourned to the church auditorium, where the election of officers was held, as follows:

President—C. D. Harrington, Grand Rapids.  
1st Vice Pres.—W. D. Farley, Battle Creek.  
2d Vice Pres.—J. J. Morse, Kalamazoo.  
3d " " —C. W. Wagner, Ann Arbor.  
Secretary—W. C. Radcliffe, Detroit.

Asst. Sec'y—H. C. Whitney, Albion College.  
2d Asst. Sec'y—V. F. Dewey, Adrian College.

President Harrington called C. W. Wagner to the chair.

An hour was then spent in listening to the reports from the visiting delegations. The reports in general showed an increase in interest, plans and in the good work being done throughout the state. In the college associations the increase is especially along the line of Bible classes, personal christian work and in missionary work. Here the building of Association halls, the management of gymnasium classes, and other such matters to which, of necessity, much attention must be paid by associations in cities, are not a source of worry. The college buildings and athletic associations make it unnecessary for the Y. M. C. A. to deal with that branch of the work. The reports from the city associations showed a large increase in memberships and interest in the spiritual department was never so much enjoyed in any previous year. We give briefly a few of the more important reports:

Adrian College reported two Bible classes and missionary society of twenty-five members. The latter is supporting a native worker in Japan. Five delegates to Lake Geneva next summer.

Albion College reported sixty-four members, two classes in personal work, five classes in Bible study. Student volunteer movement received a great impetus this school year. Sixteen young ladies and gentlemen have volunteered to devote their lives to the work of Christ in foreign lands. Ten of these are men. Twenty-five missionary addresses will be given during the summer vacation.

Hilledale College, one hundred members. During last holiday vacation twelve members held evangelistic meetings in surrounding country, and fifty conversions was the result. Two Bible and one missionary class. Student prayer meetings, Tuesday evenings with average attendance of sixty.

Hope College, one hundred six members, two Bible classes and one training class, with thirteen volunteers; conversions past year, twenty.

Alma College, thirty members. Only seven men in college who are not christians. Sunday schools in country maintained by students.

Grand Rapids, membership, 894. Average attendance at Bible classes, 36; Sunday service, 114. Bequest last month of \$10,000, which can be had for use in a year or two. Valuation of property, \$100,000.

Detroit Railroad branch, total number of visits during year, 46,193; 150 religious meetings; 908 sick calls; 1311 general calls. Membership, 414. Fifteen lectures given. Boys' club composed of railroad men's sons organized. This association expects to have a new building soon. Coldwater reported increase in interest in the spiritual department, and the erection of a new \$8,000 building.

Hancock, 400 new members in the past year; total 702, giving that association third place in the state. Sunday afternoon meetings had an average attendance of 96.

After the reading of reports, Chairman Harrington announced the following standing committees:

Business—C. W. Robinson, Detroit; H. K. Fox, Adrian; R. C. Marshman, Calumet.

Devotional—H. P. Woodward, Coldwater; S. Ackley, Battle Creek; F. W. Lawrence, Owosso.

Resolutions—L. E. Baker, Saginaw; A. L. Crozier, Ann Arbor; J. J. Banniga, Holland.

State Committee's Report—E. S. Gilmore, Ann Arbor; M. Hutchinson, Muskegon; J. P. Knowles, Alma.

The boys' branch glee club, of Detroit, coming in at this point, took seats in the choir loft. During the morning they sang two selections which delighted the audience immensely. They are an unusually well trained set of boy singers. Two especially, the soloists, Charles King and Edward Chapman, possess wonderful voices for boys.

At 11 o'clock Thomas Cole, of Toronto, provincial secretary, gave an address on "The Word." It took the form of a Bible study and was a very helpful exercise.

The afternoon session was begun with a half hour praise service conducted by Rev. Jenness, of Bay City. Chairman Harrington presided.

After music by the glee club, A. W. Brown, physical director of the Grand Rapids Association, read a paper on "Physical Work." A. G. Studer, of Detroit, had charge of the discussion. Many good points were brought out. It was considered advisable for all members taking a physical examination before entering gymnasium class. Any other plan was considered dangerous because injurious work might be given to one who needed work only in some particular line. The question being asked about home training, Mr. Studer said home training was all right provided it was preceded by systematic class work. One half hour's

hard, continuous exercise is sufficient for a student. The question as to the greater effectiveness to be gained from gymnasium work or bicycle riding, was answered by Director Hughes, of Saginaw. He considered the gymnasium of more general benefit. While the wheel did much good in certain ways, the gymnasium made an all round, well developed man.

Basket ball was discussed at length. In associations where played it has been found to be desirable where there is sufficient floor space, and where it does not interfere with regular work. Relay running, Mr. Studer said, was an excellent exercise, and he hoped before he returned home to arrange a contest between Detroit and Owosso. Boxing, he said, should be allowed only under close restriction. Rev. Jenness expressed his opposition on this point, as the general tendency of this feature was a low and not a pure one.

Mr. Lay, of Kalamazoo, gave a very scientific exhibition of club swinging that was much appreciated by the convention.

At 3 o'clock, Rev. R. C. Torrey, of the Moody Institute, Chicago, talked on "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit." Mr. Torrey is engaged in a work that brings him in constant contact with young men, and he presented his theme to the convention in a strong, effective manner.

At 4 o'clock Mrs. A. M. Hume, from the ladies' meeting at the Congregational church, presented the hearty greetings of the Auxiliary.

At 4:10 occurred the conference of college delegates. Mr. Gilchrist, of the U. of M., presided. At roll call there were forty-five delegates present. C. C. Michener, of New York, college secretary, occupied the hour and a half in a discussion of plans, present and future. He said the greatest help students received in these conferences was not from the addresses, but from the good fellowship and interchange of plans which were to be worked out in the individual institutions. He was well pleased with the evident increase in the Michigan colleges in Bible study and personal christian work. The past year's work had been an internal development rather than an increase in numbers. He advised that a "decision meeting" be held the first Sunday in the school year, when, if possible, every new comer was to be given a chance to show where he stood from a christian standpoint. He advised, also, that plans be adopted during the spring term for next fall's campaign; that a progressive study of the Life of Christ be maintained.

By reports it was found that thirty-six young men from the colleges will be in the Lake Geneva training school the coming summer—the largest delegation ever sent from Michigan. There are 324 young men in these schools fitting themselves for some kind of religious work. In closing, Mr. Michener begged the students not to wait until they became ministers or missionaries before they began to win souls. Now was the time to learn about men, now while there were so many with them.

In the evening Rev. Jenness conducted a praise service. At 7:30 Chairman Harrington opened the meeting, and after a selection by the glee club, read a telegram of greeting from the Colorado state convention at Pueblo. Phil. 4:21: "Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you."

Rev. R. C. Torrey again addressed the convention. He spoke of "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit," giving a most excellent exposition of that theme. In order to enjoy that baptism one must take seven steps, distinct and separate—humble repentance, baptism in the name of Christ for the remission of sin, obedience—doing as God says and all he says, thirsting after the holy spirit, asking for that spirit and faith. Mr. Torrey said many took the first six steps but stumbled on the seventh, failing to get farther.

Chairman Van Tuyl, of the executive committee, read his report, which showed the state work to be in good condition. The college associations without exception in good order. C. M. Copeland, of New York, had been given a call to the state secretaryship and would probably accept during the convention. Thirty-six associations in the state with 8,000 members; 450 conversions the past year.

F. D. Taylor, of the finance committee reported that the assets would exceed the liabilities if all subscriptions were paid in and would be before convention closed.

At 9 o'clock the session adjourned to the Sunday school rooms of the Congregational church, where the ladies' auxiliary tendered the delegates a reception. The rooms were crowded, and all enjoyed themselves for two hours making acquaintances and having a general good time. The auxiliary served coffee, sandwiches and cake. The glee club sang two songs.

A prayer meeting was held by forty delegates after the session at the Baptist church. The meeting lasted until midnight, and followed out the thoughts advanced in Mr. Torrey's address. Those present said it was a spiritual feast and one of the strongest meetings of the con-

vention.

The Woman's Conference met at 2:30 Friday, in the Congregational church parlors. Mrs. W. W. Wetmore, of Ann Arbor, presided. It was the largest Auxiliary gathering ever held in Michigan, some coming from as far away as Calumet. Miss Havens gave the address of welcome. Mrs. A. E. Ferry and Mrs. J. C. Cromer gave the greetings from the Methodist and Congregational churches, respectively. Papers were read on the work of the auxiliary by Mrs. A. G. Stevens, Coldwater, and Mrs. A. W. Newton, Saginaw.

SATURDAY.

The usual half hour praise and devotional exercises were conducted at 8:45 by Rev. Jenness, of Bay City.

At 9:30 R. B. Smith, assistant secretary of Detroit Association, read a paper on the Junior work. Mr. Smith divided his theme into three points. The need of the Junior work, the work being done and what should be done. The boys' work should begin at the age of twelve, when he begins to look at other things than those at home, when he begins to be drawn into other associations. This is the year when his physical development needs looking after. The work laid out by the association meets his needs in this line. Now, too, he begins to look forward to social pleasures. The association is well adapted to meet his needs in this direction, also. He is touched on this side by Christ, for being in contact with the social features he is drawn gradually into the religious meetings. The needs for the boys' branch are few. Much can be dispensed with, but everything can be used. All sorts of clubs can be organized for the pleasure of the boys. Military companies can be made a source of much pleasure. Classes along mechanical lines, where experiments are made, are of unusual interest to the young. Illustrated talks are very helpful. Assuming an attitude toward the boys that shows the true spirit of God holds them firm. Interest the boys and you will soon interest the parents. In the discussion that followed it was clearly brought out that the boys' work is a necessity and ought to go on. In some associations the boys' work has crowded upon the privileges of the older members. This can not be continued and the boys should be restricted to certain days. From some reports it was learned that the boys' branch was successful and of an excellent character. The work with them should be of a practical kind, taking the form of object lessons, illustrated talks, visits to factories, summer outings, any kind of exercises that furnishes something for the eye. Special efforts should be made with the boys from twelve to sixteen years.

At 10 o'clock, D. S. Southerland, of Detroit, division superintendent of the M. C. railroad, gave an instructive half hour address on "A View of the Railroad Work." Mr. Southerland, himself a convert in Y. M. C. A. meetings, and being so closely in touch with railroad men, was able to give an interesting talk. He divided railroad men into two classes. 1st. Officials, agents, clerks, shopmen, etc. These are easily reached because of their residence in one city. 2d. The engineers, brakemen, conductors, etc., home now and then, but compelled to pass much of their time in other cities. This class is harder to reach. The Y. M. C. A. duties to these men are to provide places where suitable lodging places, lunch counters, reading rooms, etc., can be provided.

Mr. Southerland said in this country there are 785,000 railroad men; 27,000 are members of associations in 110 points, in 48 buildings. In Michigan there are 24,617 railroad men, but in the state there is but one terminal point covering the association work, that at West Detroit.

It has been found that the results of this work are better husbands and better fathers, better sons, among men on the railroad. The M. C. road will, as soon as returns warrant, build a large new building in West Detroit for the benefit of its railroad employees. Railroad managers are waking up to the fact that the association work gives them better employees. If the associations can be convinced that the Bible, God's time card, is the best rule for the railroad men to live by, then their work has not been in vain. Since travelers have put their lives in the hands of a train's crew, is it not desirable that the railroad men be of stalwart christian character?

At 10:30, A. E. Flindt, of Bay City conducted a quiz. Many helpful ideas were worked out which will prove of much assistance in Y. M. C. A. work. The definition of religious work was called for. The answer given was that it was any kind of work carried on in the spirit of God which tended to build up the spiritual, moral or physical development of man. Any other phase which crept into the association should be stopped. Collections in the religious work was considered a good plan, not generally attended by any injurious results.

At 11 o'clock, Rev. A. R. Gay, of Concord, gave an address on "Separation." Mr. Gay is a Scotchman, a Presbyterian

clergyman. He is a forcible speaker and gave an eloquent address. It was a Jewish custom in the time of Christ to separate from among the people all those who were tainted with leprosy. So God separates those who are tainted with sin, and not until they have undergone purification do they become children of God. Mr. Gay used several illustrations in his talk which brought out the separation or the putting off of evil before taking on the pure—the spirit of God.

F. W. Ober, of Chicago, gave an address on "Our Relation to the World Wide Movement." Mr. Ober is editor of "Men," the official Y. M. C. A. paper. He has been connected with the association movement for many years and was able to give the convention comprehensive ideas of the work all over the world. He explained its spread to thirty-two nations, its results and needs.

At the afternoon session, George R. Angell, president of the Detroit association, took charge of the report of the state executive committee. Treasurer F. M. Thompson reported the finances in good condition and but few outstanding bills. In the report of the committee on executive committee's report, the report of that committee was endorsed and the efficient work of Chairman Van Tuyl heartily praised. The committee made nine recommendations: That the following named gentlemen be appointed to vacancies on the state committee: D. S. Southerland, Detroit; Jas. Gow, Muskegon; Dr. W. T. Gregg, Calumet; J. J. Morse, Kalamazoo; S. Lawrence, Detroit; Charles D. Stewart, Owosso; Dr. C. C. Landon, Battle Creek. That the state committee be instructed to engage a state secretary at a suitable salary. Training schools at Chicago be recommended to all contemplating becoming secretaries or physical directors. That "Men," the new official paper, be taken by all who are able to subscribe. That the endowment scheme be adopted and all association publications publish a form of a bequest. That claims of state work be urged by holding a "State work Sunday." That the \$4,000 asked by the executive committee for state work be voted. That a committee be appointed to investigate and report to the state committee the advisability of having one member from each association on the state executive committee.

The need of funds for the executive committee was then presented, and in a short time \$951.75 was raised by subscription. An effort to get subscriptions for "Men" resulted in getting a large number.

At 4 o'clock a half hour was devoted to "Questions." N. B. Smith, Detroit, conducted the exercise. Many new points in association work were brought out and the interchange of ideas used in the work all over the state will have good results hereafter.

An address, "The Word and the Work," by Thomas S. Cole, of Toronto, was then given. His address was again in the form of a Bible reading. Mr. Cole has been a close student of the Bible and is thorough in his readings, so that his appearance in an exercise is always welcomed by the Bible students of the associations and colleges.

The evening session was again attended by a large crowd, filling the church rooms. C. M. Copeland, of New York, spoke on the advantages of the educational department. He showed that this department can be maintained successfully with less expense than any of the others. The magnitude of the work of the educational departments throughout the country was explained by the speaker, showing the advantages accruing to the members, to the individual association, and to the world because of the increased worth of the man—the mechanic, for instance, who has taken a course of study even after he has grown to manhood.

C. C. Michener, of New York, secretary of the international committee, gave an address on "The Great Student Movement." Mr. Michener, himself an alumnus of one of the great western colleges, held the closest attention not only of the college delegates but of every person interested in young men. The speaker explained the work of his committee, speaking in particular of John R. Mott, who returns this week from a trip around the world visiting the colleges in all nations. Especially practical were his plans for interesting young college men in Y. M. C. A. work; what plans the old members at school should adopt at the beginning of the year to secure the new men. He spoke briefly of the summer training schools at Springfield and Lake Geneva, advising all who intended becoming Y. M. C. A. secretaries to attend them.

Following this address came an illustrated lecture by A. L. Parker, Detroit. The talk was made interesting by the aid of seventy-five stereopticon views. "A World Wide View of the Association," was his subject. Among other things of interest, Mr. Parker spoke of Sir George Williams, of London, the founder of the Y. M. C. A. He gave pictures of many association buildings in this state and a score in the large cities.

SUNDAY.  
The services Sunday were of an especially impressive character, and the day will be remembered by the delegates and many people of this city as one containing many spiritual helps. The day's exercises opened at 9 o'clock with a song and prayer service at association hall, conducted by C. M. Copeland. It was attended by a room full of young men.

At 10:30, services were held in all the city churches, in charge of visiting pastors and delegates to the convention. Several pupils in Cornuna were also filled by the visitors.

At 3:30 p. m. meetings were held in the Baptist and Congregational churches for men and women, respectively. Tracy McGregor had charge of the men's meeting, at which time the delegates had the best chance of becoming acquainted with this bright, active christian young man. C. C. Michener gave an address, and as usual filled every man and boy in the assembly with a desire to be a worthy Christian. The amount of good Mr. Michener is doing among college men especially, is beyond computation. H. C. Van Tuyl addressed the women's meeting.

The delegates from colleges scattered themselves over the city at 6:00 p. m. all taking part in the young people's meetings, adding much inspiration to them. Again at 7:30 platform meetings were held in the several churches, where delegates gave addresses. These meetings over, the congregations of the other churches united with the Baptists where the farewell services were held. Short talks were given by Dr. B. S. Knapp and E. C. Van Ness, of the local association, H. C. Van Tuyl, chairman of the executive committee, C. C. Michener, of the international committee, Rev. J. C. Cromer, Thomas Cole, provincial secretary of Canada, Secretary A. L. Parker, of Detroit, President Harrington, of Grand Rapids, and C. M. Copeland, of New York, who was chairman of the meeting.

The credential committee reported 230 delegates in attendance throughout the convention. The committee on resolutions presented a report expressing thanks to the city association for its work in getting up such a good convention; the people of Owosso for the cordial hospitality extended to them, the press of the for its kindness, and thanks to all who in any way added to the comfort of the convention. Fifteen minutes were devoted to the delegates to tell what they had gained from the sessions. It was the general testimony that this convention had attained the greatest results from a spiritual standpoint of any similar gathering ever held in this state; that spirituality had been the keynote of the convention from the first to the last session.

At 10:30 the last feature of the excellent convention was taken up when the delegates stood up around the walls of the auditorium, joining hands and singing the closing ode "Blest be the tie that binds." As the last words died away, President Harrington declared the 25th convention of the Young Men's Christian Association adjourned sine die.

Monday morning a conference of all the secretaries was held in Association hall, when topics of interest to those workers were discussed. C. M. Copeland of New York has been given a call by the executive committee to become state secretary for Michigan, and he will accept, it is believed. Mr. Copeland is well fitted for the position, having been provincial secretary for Manitoba, and done much work in the far northwest and in the state of Maryland for the international committee. He will give his decision in a few days.

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Michigan People.  
**The Wayne**  
J. R. HAYES, PROP.  
  
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Three Blocks from Steamer Docks.  
In the Center of the Wholesale District.  
Three Minutes by Electric Cars to Retail Center and all Places of Amusement.  
**200 Rooms with Steam Heat.**  
**\$20.00 in New Improvements.**  
Cuisine Unsurpassed.  
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